

1 CLAIMS

2 What is claimed is:

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4 1. A method for use in a graphical user interface, the method comprising:

5 determining an offset value between an object's position and an input  
6 position; and

7 dynamically and gradually reducing the offset value.

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9 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the object position  
10 includes a preferred contact area.

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12 3. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the preferred contact area  
13 includes a definable point associated with an object, and the object can be  
14 selectively moved within the graphical user interface.

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16 4. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the input position  
17 includes updated positioning information from a user input mechanism.

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19 5. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein dynamically and  
20 gradually reducing the offset value further includes implementing a corrective  
21 function that selectively and incrementally reduces the offset based on the updated  
22 positioning information.

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24 6. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein implementing the  
25 corrective function that selectively and incrementally reduces the offset based on

1 the updated positioning information is further selectively implemented based upon  
2 differences between the updated positioning information with respect to previous  
3 positioning information.

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5 7. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the corrective function  
6 includes a linear corrective factor.

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8 8. The method as recited in Claim 7 wherein the linear corrective  
9 factor reduces the offset by at least one pixel for every four pixels in the updated  
10 positioning information.

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12 9. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising graphically  
13 displaying an object within a graphical user interface.

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15 10. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
16 instructions for performing steps comprising:

17 determining an offset value between an object's position and an input  
18 position; and

19 dynamically and gradually reducing the offset value.

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21 11. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10, wherein the  
22 object position includes a preferred contact area.  
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12. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11, wherein the preferred contact area includes a definable point associated with an object that can be selectively moved within the graphical user interface.

13. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10, wherein the input position includes updated positioning information from a user input mechanism.

14. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein dynamically and gradually reducing the offset value further includes implementing a corrective function that selectively and incrementally reduces the offset based on the updated positioning information.

15. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 14, wherein the corrective function includes a linear corrective factor.

16. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein the linear corrective factor reduces the offset by at least one pixel for every four pixels in the updated positioning information.

17. An apparatus comprising logic configured to determine an offset value between an object's position and an input position, and dynamically and gradually reduce the offset value.

18. The apparatus as recited in Claim 17, wherein the object position includes a preferred contact area.

19. The apparatus as recited in Claim 18, wherein the preferred contact area includes a definable point associated with an object that can be selectively moved within the graphical user interface.

20. The apparatus as recited in Claim 17, further comprising an input device operatively coupled to the logic and configured to generate updated positioning information included within the input position.

21. The apparatus as recited in Claim 20, wherein the logic further implements a corrective function that selectively and incrementally reduces the offset based on the updated positioning information.

22. The apparatus as recited in Claim 21, wherein the corrective function includes a linear corrective factor.

23. The apparatus as recited in Claim 22, further comprising a display device having a plurality of pixels, and wherein the linear corrective factor reduces the offset by at least one pixel for every four pixels in the updated positioning information.

24. The apparatus as recited in Claim 20, wherein the input device includes a pointing device.

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2 25. The apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein the pointing device  
3 includes a mouse.  
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5 26. The apparatus as recited in Claim 20, wherein the input device  
6 includes a touch screen device.  
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8 27. The apparatus as recited in claim 17, wherein the arrangement is  
9 operatively configured within a computer.  
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